In the claims:

41.   (New) A method to allow at least one party to perform at least one permitted activity that is applicable to a plurality of devices, comprising the steps of:

embedding a role certificate applicable to the plurality of devices in an individual device, wherein the role certificate specifies said at least one permitted activity and wherein the role certificate is generated by a Certification Authority (CA);

embedding at least information regarding a public key applicable to the plurality of devices in said individual device, the public key corresponding to the private key used by the CA to sign the role certificate; and

running the individual device so as to verify the role certificate using said information regarding the CA public key so that said at least one permitted activity can be activated within the individual device by said at least one party if the role certificate is verified.

42.   (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said individual device is also embedded with at least one different role certificate.

43.   (New) The method of claim 42, wherein one of the at least one different role certificate specifies at least a third party or a group or a device, and wherein the at least one permitted activity is not conducted if the one of the at least one different role certificate does not match said at least a third party or a group or a device.

44.   (New) An apparatus to allow at least one party to perform at least one permitted activity that is applicable to a plurality of devices, comprising:

means for embedding a role certificate applicable to the plurality of devices in an individual device, wherein the role certificate specifies said at least one permitted activity and wherein the role certificate is generated by a Certification Authority (CA);

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means for embedding information regarding a public key applicable to the plurality of devices in said individual device, the public key corresponding to the private key used by the CA to sign the role certificate; and

means for running the individual device so as to verify the role certificate using said information regarding the CA public key so that said at least one permitted activity can be activated within the individual device by said at least one party.